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ANNEX D

Air Force Position on Soviet Anti-Missile Activity

The Air Force does not agree with this paper but would substitute the following:

It is evident that the Soviets are actively engaged in research and development of several anti-missile systems to counter ballistic missiles of varying ranges. The evidence supports the conclusion that research and development is under way to counter short, medium, and intermediate range ballistic missiles. Limited evidence suggests that some work may have been accomplished toward an anti ICBM system.

The threat to the Soviets from short and medium range ballistic missiles is primarily from those missiles which will be fired against tactical targets in theater areas. This includes those missiles with ranges up to approximately 600 n. m.

We believe that an outgrowth of the existing SAM systems could produce in 1962-1963 some defense against ballistic missiles with ranges up to approximately 50 n. m. There is evidence to show that the Soviets have been engaged in a research and development program of an anti-missile system to engage missiles in the 100-600 n. m. range. The defense of tactical targets could be satisfied with a mobile or static system. Such

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a system could be deployed in 1963-1964.

The status of the ABM systems for defense against the IRBM and ICBM is unknown and cannot be determined from the very limited information now available. We believe that the development of tactical ABM systems is receiving a far greater effort from a testing point of view, than is the development of a system for defense against strategic missiles.

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There is no basis for any assumptions regarding Soviet deployment of ABM defenses. Since we cannot describe the characteristics of any system we have no basis for determining its capabilities or limitations.

The Air Force believes that the Soviets will develop an ABM system for defense against the IRBM, ALBM, FBM, and ICBM and that this system could be deployed about 1966. There is no firm evidence that the Soviets are investigating techniques for discriminating against decoys.

Soviet research and development in anti-missile defense perhaps including unconventional techniques, will undoubtedly continue as long as there are ballistic missiles. The Soviets almost certainly will design their first system in such a way that improved components can be incorporated as

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they become available. Improvements might include introduction of better intercept vehicles or advanced discrimination techniques. We believe that the Soviets will obtain a limited capability against low altitude satellites when the anti-ICBM system is deployed. With presently available equipment at the missile test centers, the Soviets could achieve an intercept over the missile test centers of a low altitude satellite, after it had made several orbits, if they desired to do so and disrupted other work.

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